NOVEMBER

1954

New Hampshire ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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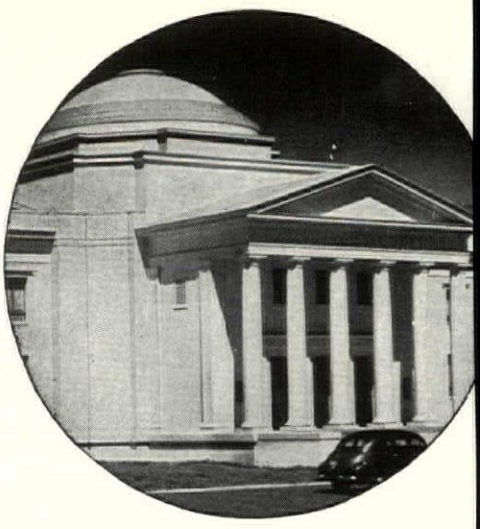

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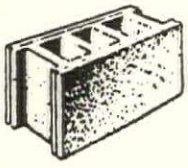

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New Hampshire ARCHITECT

VOL. 6 NOVEMBER, 1954 NO. 4

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OUR COVER

Photo of the New Building
Constructed For
THE CAPITAL OFFSET COMPANY
181 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire

The President's Message

MASTER-BUILDER:—

Recently published by the American Institute of Architects was a definition of an Architect which reads: "An Architect is a Master-Builder who professionally plans buildings and supervises their construction. . . . "

Approximately 125 trades with their varied intricacies confront the Architect daily. In addition to research, costs, design, labor, contractors and owners, the architectural profession is very much concerned with beauty. It is a difficult task to handle the rough and tumble construction phase of buildings and still maintain an optimistic slant towards beauty; it is difficult because the "practical" man finds it so hard to see the final impact of the building on those who live and work in it. Well-designed buildings are a good buy and subtly this fact is creeping into the consciousness of the man on the street, the man of industry and the man of money.

Put the lands' loveliest cloth in the lap of any number of women and there will come creations which vary with the "taste" of the women; now put a non-descript cloth in the hands of a woman who is trained to create. . . . "

Now if you were to "bake an architect" you might use this recipe: one cupful each of Plumbing, Heating, Electricity, Carpentry, Bricklaying, Steel and Landscaping; then roll-in a large portion of patience and a pinch of humor. Shape to please and bake this concoction in a slow oven with the heat of experience. Remove from container and on which ever end you think is up, sprinkle a goodly amount of vision. (Pepper, salt and spices can be added to your taste).

PRACTICAL:—

This climate with its variety of demands upon an architect's ingenuity is bound to make a New Hampshire Architect a jack-of-all-trades. The problems of heat, insulation, frost lines, snow loads and infiltration cannot be tossed-off with a lighted candle, a newspaper and a thin concrete slab on grade. And naturally the New Englander faced with snapping reality is more apt to face facts with a very realistic philosophy—when you've bred the stock, fed, nursed and fattened it, butchered and hung it, you've had more than a liberal arts education in the facts of living.

Mr. Architect up-this-a-way had best be well-versed in things practical and if he be, then he'll never find a more sincere bunch of rooters, anywhere. Where? Anywhere!

TOUCH OF A HAND:—

Of "gutter politics" and premeditated human cussedness we all could write a book. Yet it is the gentleness of plain people which re-orients me. A hard-bitten brick-layer gently "cussing-out" an apprentice, neighborly women bringing a cake or meat pie when your diet has been pins and needles, a truant-officer (such as Manchester has) who secretly buys shoes and clothes for the truants, these shy touches of a hand are wonderful lifts. These "little things" really point-up what a waste of time snapping at heels can be.

Richard Koehler

ONGRESS EXTENDS ACT AIDING EDERALLY-AFFECTED AREAS

WASHINGTON—Appropriation of additional Federal funds have been authorized by Congress to assist local school districts provide school buildings for several ousand children in communities adjacent military reservations, defense plants, d other Federally-affected areas.

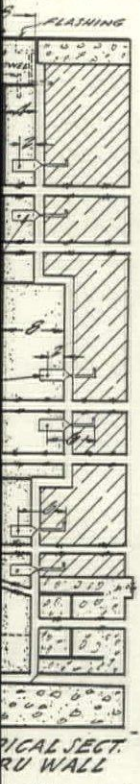
"The cost of the two-year extension is timated at approximately $60 million." ommissioner of Education Samuel M. rownell said. No appropriation was ade for the new act, since it was passed the closing days of the 83rd Congress, Session. If and when funds are made ailable, about 250 school districts will eligible for assistance in constructing proximately 300 facilities.

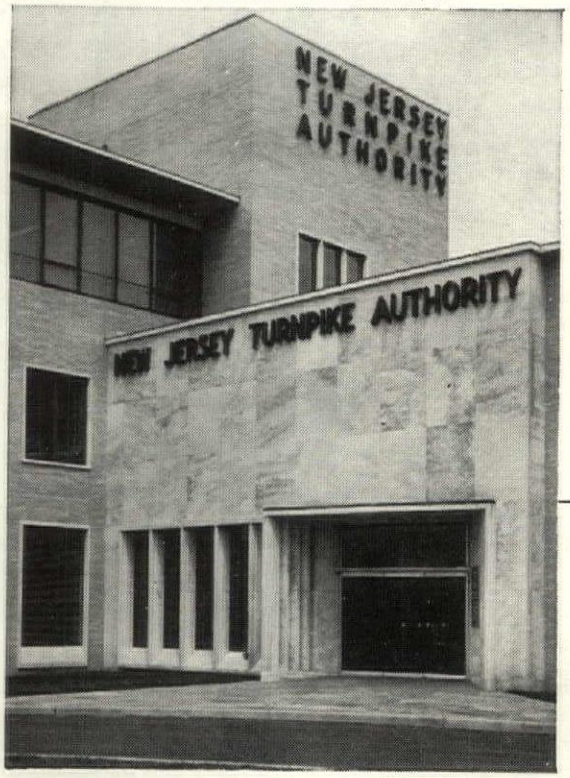
Commissioner Brownell said that the w legislation just approved by the President authorizes continued Federal assistance to local school districts through June 30, 1956 in terms of the previously-authorized formulas. It also covers Federal construction of schools on military bases as needed.

"Under former provisions of this Title, some 500 school districts throughout the country received about 110 million dollars in Federal financial assistance," he said.

"These funds were used to construct about 620 school buildings which will accommodate 140,000 children who entered school between June, 1952 and June, 1954, for whom no school facilities were available.

cts—Alfred Fellheimer and S. Wagoner. General Contractor—A. A. LaFountain, Inc.





• The coloration of Vermont Pearl marble lends interest and distinction to the main entrance of this building, which is located at New Brunswick, New Jersey. Above windows and doorway, two courses of 4″ marble are separated by one course of 8″ thickness as shown by detail. Window frames are accentuated by use of the same marble.

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LOOK-ALIKE HOUSES NOT LIKED BY PUBLIC

Look-alike houses are not liked by a substantial percentage of the American public. According to a recent Gallop Poll, 47% of all persons questioned favor legislation that would "keep builders from building houses that all look alike," while 37% oppose it. No opinions on the matter were held by the remaining 14%. The survey reveals that feeling runs even stronger in suburban areas where 61% of those queried would have look-alikes outlawed.

Several years ago the Westchester County, N. Y. community of Scarsdale adopted an ordnance prohibiting the construction of houses "substantially like" other houses, and recently Princeton, New Jersey amended its building code to include a similar regulation.

Aesthetic control also is exercised in the old Georgetown section of the nation's capital. Here, the proposed exterior designs for all new and remodeled structures must be approved by a subcommittee of the Fine Arts Commission. In the voteless District of Columbia, it took an Act of Congress to prohibit buildings that might detract from the 18th century atmosphere that pervades historic Georgetown.

Whether or not building restrictions based solely on aesthetic considerations would stand up in a court of law is a matter of conjecture. To our knowledge, they have not been tested.

N. H. CONSTRUCTION AWARDS LARGEST EVER RECORDED IN A SINGLE YEAR

BOSTON—New Hampshire is one c three New England states basking in th greatest volume of construction contra awards ever recorded in a single yea and this with only 9 months of 1954 gon according to Dodge Reports totals.

James A. Harding, district manager c F. W. Dodge Corporation said that Ne Hampshire's nine month 1954 dollar vc ume of $75,935,000 is not only a reco for any entire year in the state's histor but is 175 per cent above 1953 at th point.

September awards were down 39 p cent from August and 3 per cent belo September 1953.

Individual nine-month totals compar with the like period 1953 are: nonreside tial, $18,566,000, up 34 per cent; reside tial, $19,577,000, up 170 per cent; hea engineering, $37,792,000 up 481 per ce

September awards were: nonresidenti $1,477,000, down 51 per cent from Augu 1954 and 28 per cent below Septemb 1953; residential, $1,767,000, down 3 p cent from August but 42 per cent abo September 1953; heavy engineering, $73 000, down 55 per cent from August a 10 per cent below September 1953.

A ROOF BY THERRIEN IS A GOOD ROO

TEL. 3-6193 59 DEPOT STREET MANCHESTER, N

ilding Researchers to Study onomies of Modular Measure

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A reliable thod of reducing building costs will be ven prominence by the Building Re- rch Institute here in its activities this nter. Executive Director William H. heick has announced that, on Thursday, cember ninth, at Washington's National ademy of Sciences, the Institute will nduct a research conference on MOD- AR MEASURE—the new and efficient tem for dimensioning buildings and lding materials. "MODULAR MEAS- E has been coming into wider use ever ce World War II," Mr. Scheick de- red, "and there are many reports from ntractors throughout the country that is already cutting construction costs. believe that the need now exists for a earch conference to evaluate its performance to date and to indicate new ways by which MODULAR MEASURE can reduce the price paid for buildings by the American people."

Participants in the Building Research Institute Conference on MODULAR MEASURE will include general contractors, manufacturers, builders and architects. All who are interested in the subject are invited to attend; the nominal admission fee will include a copy of the full conference proceedings, mailed without charge to every registrant. This will be the eighth major research conference conducted by the Building Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences. MODULAR MEASURE is a simple system of coordinating the designer's dimensions for a building with the actual unit sizes of the materials with which it is to be constructed.

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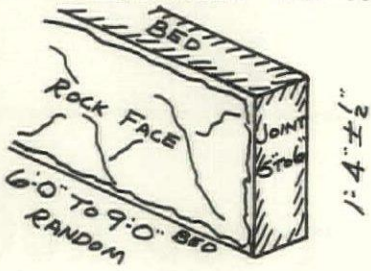

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1954 - 1955

Architect	*Date Due*
Archer E. Hudson	December 1, 1954
Dirsa & Lampron	January 1, 1955
Koehler & Isaak	February 1, 1955
Willis Littlefield	March 1, 1955
Lyford & Magenau	April 1, 1955
Leo Provost	May 1, 1955
Denby T. Hird	June 1, 1955
John A. Carter	July 1, 1955
Orcutt and Marston	August 1, 1955
John D. Betley	September 1, 1955

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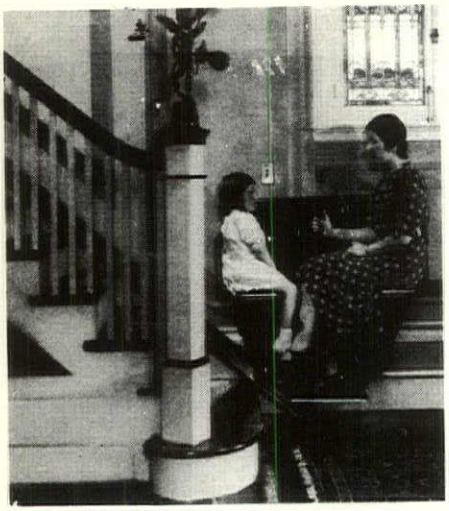

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Two Views—before and during Construction of Completed Building Shown on Cover

THE CAPITAL OFFSET COMPANY

In July of 1954 the Capital Offset Company moved into new quarters at 181 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The site was an old familiar landmark in the City, formerly owned by the Rumford Press and used as a warehouse.

The property consisted of a three story brick structure with a one story modern brick building attached. To make way for a completely new office building and parking area, the old three story building was razed. On the front section of the granite foundation a colonial brick and cinder block building was erected. An air conditioning system was installed and the basement walls were water proofed and drains were placed under the cement floor.

The colonial style is carried out in the interior of the offices. Venetian blinds and colorful overdrapes adorn the windows and soft antique color schemes are used throughout. The Conference Room is pine paneled and furnished with a coloni maple saw buck table and black tave chairs. The other offices are equipp with steel office furniture. Recess lighting fixtures and tile flooring comple the attractiveness of this building.

The connecting plant is rebuilt to arcl tecturally match the new office buildi and the layout has been designed especi ly for the efficient operation of a mode printing business. It has approximat ten thousand square feet of floor spa with brick walls, tar and gravel roof, a a cement floor throughout for durabil to withstand heavy printing equipme The ceiling was dropped from the r rafters and insulated above. All wa and ceilings were strapped, metal lath and plastered and the complete area protected with a sprinkler system. T lighting is so designed that Plug-in f tory type fixtures can be added or tal

(Continued on page 15)

Section of Main Office as it Appears from Entrance

JAMES ROSS ASSOCIATES, INC.

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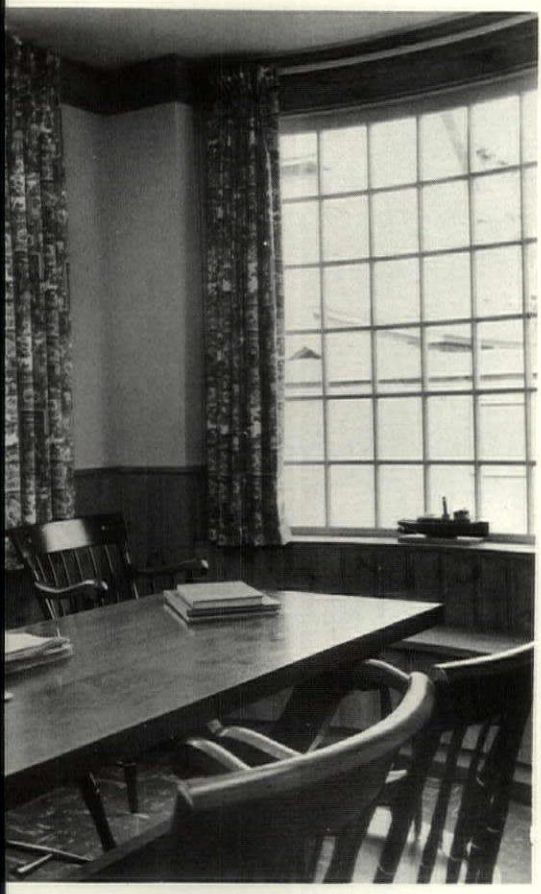
Section of completed pressroom where N. H. Architect is printed Shown in process of renovation below



Conference Room

(Continued from Page 12)

away to benefit the operators of the equipment. Power lines have been planned for future expansion so that machinery can be added without costly wiring problems. Compressed air lines are easily accessible. The lavatories have enameled aluminum tile and painted plaster walls with Colorundum cement floors. The balance of the floor area is open with the exception of two dark rooms and a camera room which contain stainless steel temperature controlled sinks with structural glass splash boards together with other modern photographic equipment. At the Washington Street Shipping and Receiving Entrance a hydraulic lift was installed to facilitate the handling of heavy paper stock. The plant is heated with a separate warm air-conditioned unit with humidity control and the entire area is painted eye-ease green. There are ample paved facilities for parking for both customers and employees.

(Continued on Page 17)

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BEST WISHES to the Capital Offset Company On Their New Plant

A FRIEND

This picture clearly shows the excellent lighting conditions in the building

(Continued from Page 15)

The following contractors participated the construction and building of the ıpital Offset Company:

General Contractor—James Ross Assoates, Concord.

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(Additional Photos Page 18)

Plate Department where film is transferred to metal press plates

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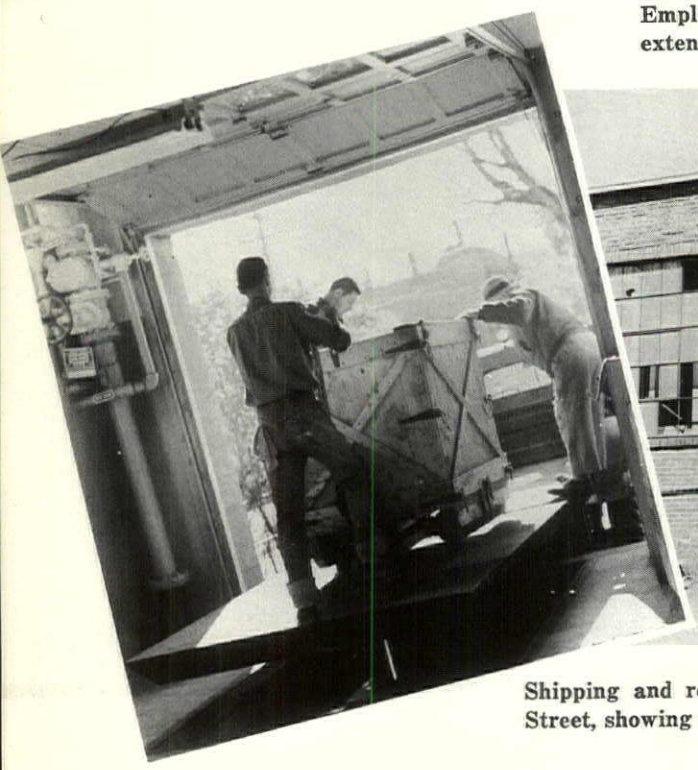
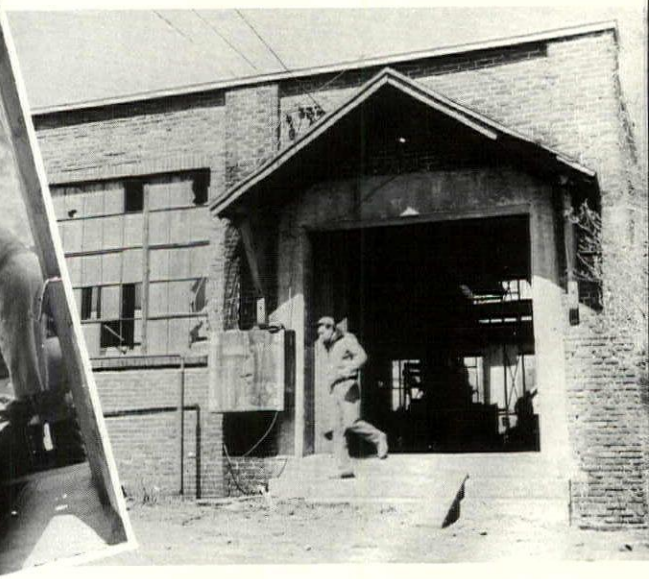
Employees parking area after extensive alterations





Shipping and receiving entrance on Washington Street, showing automatic lift

Expansion of plant and stock stora

NOVEMBER MEETING of New Hampshire Chapter, A.I.A.

DATE — NOVEMBER 19TH — FRIDAY EVENING

Place — "LANE MANOR"—Merrimack, New Hampshire (half-way between Nashua and Manchester on right hand side of road going south towards Nashua).

Time

Executive meeting	—	4:00 — 5:00 P. M.
Cocktails	—	5:00
Dinner	—	6:30

Speaker of the evening — Alonzo J. Harriman, A. I. A. — Auburn, Maine

Mr. Harriman, as we all know, is outstanding in the field of architecture and will bring us a message pertinent to our needs and aims.

Subject category of the meeting — SCHOOLS

—— AND FOR THE LADIES ——

Miss Natalie Roode, B. S., Head of the Art Department of Nashua Junior High School will choose as her subject "COLOR IN YOUR LIFE." Miss Roode has studied at the Massachusetts School of Art, Harvard University and Fitchburg Teachers' College.

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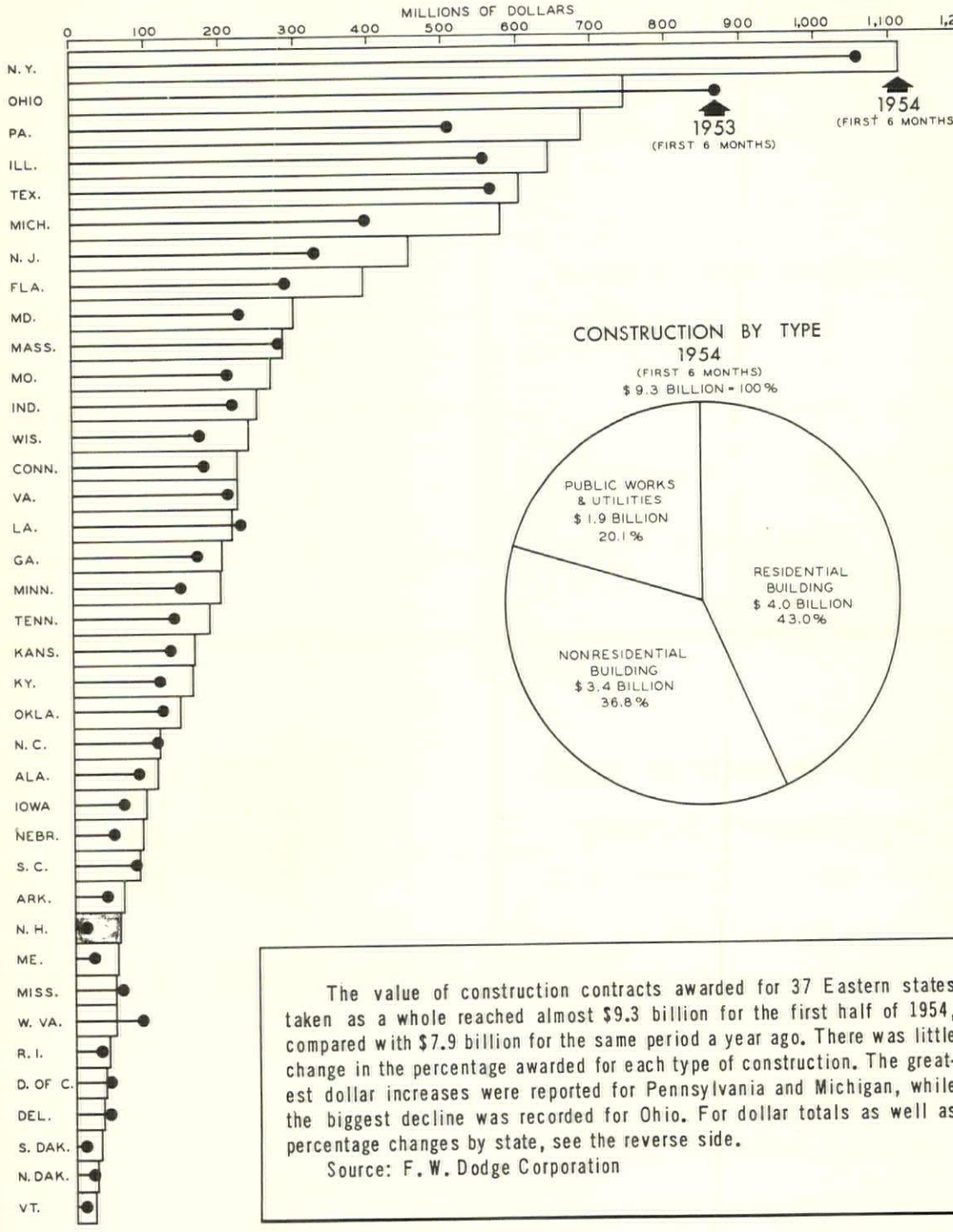
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

37 EASTERN STATES & DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



The value of construction contracts awarded for 37 Eastern states taken as a whole reached almost $9.3 billion for the first half of 1954, compared with $7.9 billion for the same period a year ago. There was little change in the percentage awarded for each type of construction. The greatest dollar increases were reported for Pennsylvania and Michigan, while the biggest decline was recorded for Ohio. For dollar totals as well as percentage changes by state, see the reverse side.

Source: F. W. Dodge Corporation

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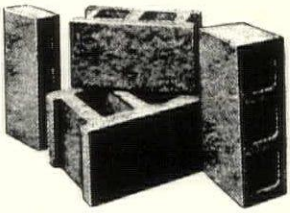

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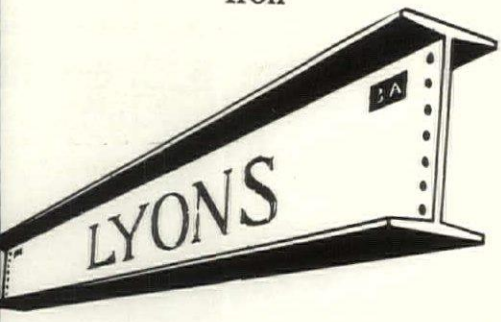

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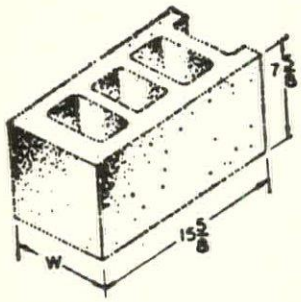

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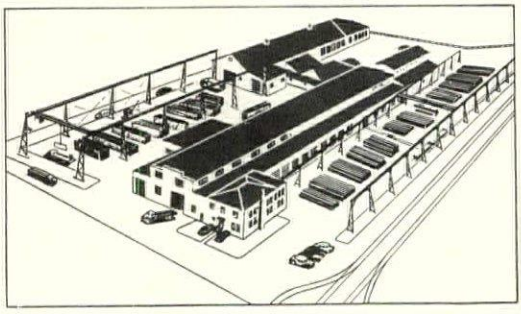

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